867/697

17 Soho Square
16. November 1855

My Dear Sir.

Among the fragments of organic remains from the Artesian Well on Highgate Hill there are very few which admit of even a conjectural determination & only one which can be named with certainty, this is the Ammonites inflatus Sow. which also passes under the names of A. rostratus & A. tetrammatus: the specimen is sufficiently large & perfect to show all the distinctive characters of the species, viz a strong keel, back broad, sides flattened, with strong slightly curved ribs, either single or bifurcating & thickest near the back where they are crossed by several transverse furrows, which in the cast are but faintly seen; the lobes of the septa are fully shown in the specimen & exactly agree with those of A. inflatus & A. rostratus: so that no doubt can exist as to its identity. In mineral condition also the specimen exactly agrees with

that of the same species from the phosphatic nodules in the Brickfields near Cambridge, which are supposed to belong to the top of the Gault.

The species is also common in the Upper Green Sand in many localities. M. d'Orbigny quotes it as found throughout France in the Craie Chloritée & in the Upper part of the Gault, so that every thing conspires to lead us to place the bed in which this specimen was found (marked N.80, 1196 feet) as belonging to the upper part of the Gault.

In the tray marked N.97, is a small fragment of an Ammonite which I think to be A. cristatus, De Luc, a species only known in the Gault, but the fragment is so small & so much worn, that I name it with the greatest doubt: it is in a reddish Clay.

In tray N.97 * are in company with the last-named Ammonites & also in the tray labelled 353.84 are several fragments of small Belemnites, which correspond in size with B. minimus of the Gault; but I can state almost with certainty that they do not belong to that species: their section is more square, than in B. minimus, the sides have not the double line which marks that species. One specimen differs from all the rest, it is the point & appears to have a furrow down each side as in B. bicanaliculatus Blainville, which M. d'Orbigny places in the Neocomian beds: it is however possible that these apparent furrows may have been produced by the friction of the borer, as the fragment is evidently rubbed. On the whole no safe conclusion can be drawn from the fragments of Belemnites. In the tray 353.84 there are also some fragments of Ammonites, of which nothing can even be guessed.

I can form no opinion whatever about the specimens in the other trays: some of them are organic, others appear to be only nodules.

Yours sincerely
Daniel Sharpe

With your specimens I send some from you. A. rostratus from Cambridge for comparison.

Joseph Prestwich jun.r Esq

Sharpe

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SHARPE, Daniel

A. L. S. to Joseph Prestwich dated Nov. 16, 1855
A letter on fossil research